

COASTAL IMPACT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Jefferson Parish Project Nominee Fact Sheet

Project Title: Dedicated Dredging on the Barataria Basin Landbridge (BA-36)

Entity/Individual nominating the project: Jefferson Parish, Louisiana

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Total CIAP Funds Requested: \$ 33,700,000

Parish CIAP Funds Proposed: \$ 0

State CIAP Funds Requested: \$ 33,700,000

Infrastructure Funds Proposed: N/A

Description and Location of the Project: The project area contains 502 acres of emergent marsh and 780 acres of open water. It is located along the southeastern side of Bayou Rigolettes between the Harvey Cut and Bayou Perot in Jefferson Parish, Louisiana.

The project will create emergent marsh by hydraulically dredging in Bayou Rigolettes. Existing marsh will be nourished by the addition of a thin layer of sediment. Where necessary, vegetation will be planted to ensure rapid colonization.

The previously approved Barataria Basin Landbridge Shoreline Protection Project (BBLSPP) will protect the project area from the high wave energy of the Perot and Rigolettes bayous, but the interior wetlands will continue to deteriorate from subsidence, sea-level rise, and excessive tidal exchange. The Davis Pond Freshwater Diversion Project will freshen this area, possibly converting it from brackish to intermediate marsh. However, Davis Pond will not add land-building sediments to this area, and marsh deterioration will continue even under the freshened conditions.

Project Type: Conservation, restoration and protection of coastal area, including wetland

Project Justification: This project's objectives are to fill open water areas in order to create new marsh and nourish existing marsh by using hydraulic dredges. Shoreline protection features associated with the BBLSPP will be used as containment. In some large, open water areas, containment dikes will be necessary. In more isolated areas, the existing marsh can be used for containment with small containment dikes only necessary to close breaches into bayous, canals, and other channels.

The borrow site would most likely be Bayou Rigolettes. However, conveyance of Mississippi River sediment via pipeline is could also be utilized. Vegetation such as brown top millet (*Panicum ramosum*) and Japanese millet (*Echinochloa frumentacea*) will be aerially seeded on the large marsh creation sites that comprise approximately

55% of the created marsh area. The remaining marsh, which consists of smaller isolated areas, will vegetate by natural colonization from the surrounding marsh.

The project is consistent with the following coastal restoration initiatives:

COAST 2050: TOWARD A SUSTAINABLE COASTAL LOUISIANA:

Coastwide Strategy:

- Dedicated Dredging for Wetland Creation
- Maintenance of Bay and Lake Shoreline Integrity
- Vegetative Planting
- Maintain or Restore Ridge Function

Regional Strategy:

- #24. Build entire Breaux Act land bridge shore protection project.
- #25. Preserve bay and lake shoreline integrity on the land bridge.
- #26. Dedicated dredging to create marsh on land bridge

Mapping Unit Strategies:

- # 12. Maintain ridge function

COASTAL IMPACT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (CIAP):

- Protect Critical infrastructure

Project Cost Share: State = 0 %
 Parish = 0 %